

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 215391

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, GR

SUBJECT: GREEK AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON CLARK CLIFFORD

REF: STATE 211555

1. AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS MET WITH PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL
REPRESENTATIVE CLARK CLIFFORD SEPTEMBER 2 FOR TOUR D'HORIZON.
ALEXANDRAKIS SPOKE GENERALLY ALONG LINES HIS AUGUST 31 CALL
ON UNDER SECRETARY HABIB (REFTEL).

2. ALEXANDRAKIS EXPRESSED GOG APPRECIATION FOR CLIFFORD'S
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PARTICIPATION IN US DELEGATION TO MAKARIOS' FUNERAL. HE
SAID HE HAD RETURNED FROM LEAVE IN ATHENS WITH STRONG VIEW
THAT NO PROGRESS ON CYPRUS AND OTHER EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN
ISSUES WAS POSSIBLE UNLESS US MAINTAINED FIRM POSITION. IN
THIS CONNECTION, HE NOTED THAT IMF IS SENDING MISSION TO
ANKARA AND EXPRESSED VIEW THAT TURKISH ECONOMIC SITUATION
PROVIDES ADDITIONAL LEVERAGE TO ENCOURAGE TURKISH MOVEMENT

ON CYPRUS. ALEXANDRAKIS ALSO ARGUED AGAINST VIEW RECENTLY EXPRESSED BY SULZBERGER IN NEW YORK TIMES THAT "TURKEY MAY BE LOST". ALEXANDRAKIS ALSO NOTED THAT HE HAD RAISED WITH HABIB STATUS OF APPOINTMENT OF AMBASSADOR SCHAUFELER AND RECALLED THAT HABIB HAD SAID SUBJECT SHOULD BE DISCUSSED BETWEEN SECRETARY AND FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS IN NEW YORK LATER THIS MONTH; ALEXANDRAKIS SAID HE STILL FELT IT WOULD

BE BETTER IF MATTER COULD BE SETTLED BEFORE BITSIOS-VANCE MEETING.

3. CLIFFORD RECALLED THAT IN HIS AUGUST 9 NICOSIA PRESS CONFERENCE HE HAD REAFFIRMED STRONG AND CONTINUING US INTEREST IN PROBLEMS OF EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. TURKS WERE EXCEEDINGLY DISAPPOINTED THERE HAD BEEN NO ACTION ON US-TURKEY DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT. WHILE TURKS HAD SAID PUBLICLY THAT THEY DID NOT DESIRE US HELP OR INVOLVEMENT, CLIFFORD SAID HE WAS NOT SURE THAT THIS REPRESENTED TRUE GOT ATTITUDE. WITH REGARD TURKISH ECONOMIC SITUATION, CLIFFORD EMPHASIZED THAT US DOES NOT CONTROL IMF. IT SEEMED APPROPRIATE AND DESIRABLE FOR IMF TO HAVE CURRENT ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION.

4. CLIFFORD REITERATED STRONG US INTEREST IN SETTLEMENT OF CYPRUS PROBLEM AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT DEVELOPMENTS WOULD ALLOW PROGRESS TOWARD SOLUTION AND EVENHANDED TREATMENT OF

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TURKISH AND GREEK DEFENSE AGREEMENTS AT APPROXIMATELY SAME TIME BY US CONGRESS. CLIFFORD SAID HE WANTED RETURN TO AREA BUT RECOGNIZED THAT THIS WAS NOT THE RIGHT TIME. CLIFFORD SAID HE WOULD LIKE MEET WITH FOREIGN MINISTERS BITSIOS AND CAGLAYANGIL WHILE THEY WERE IN NEW YORK FOR UNGA IN AN EFFORT TO GET DIALOGUE STARTED AGAIN.

5. CLIFFORD EXPRESSED HOPE THAT GOG WOULD PLAY INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE ON CYPRUS AND THAT GREEKS WOULD KEEP US INFORMED OF THEIR ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENTS ON CYPRUS. CLIFFORD ALSO EXPRESSED HOPE THAT GREEK-TURKISH TALKS ON AEGEAN WOULD RESUME AT EARLY DATE. WITH REGARD SCHAUFELER MATTER, CLIFFORD SAID THIS WAS QUESTION SECRETARY VANCE AND DEPARTMENT OF STATE WERE HANDLING BUT HE DEEPLY REGRETTED HOW MATTER HAD DEVELOPED AND NOTED THAT SCHAUFELER WAS TOP FLIGHT DIPLOMAT WHO WOULD BE GREAT ASSET TO BUILDING US-GREEK RELATIONS. VANCE

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